

11-10-00

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Re: Docket# 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sirs,

This is to request that you grant Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter for human food consumption of downed animals. In addition to posing a risk for bacterial contamination, there is also evidence that some of these animals may be carrying a form of BSE which has been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

It is close to impossible to move a downed animal--whether to stockyard or slaughterhouse--without injury and, subsequently, even more suffering unless it is at first euthanized.

For various reasons--mostly financial--a downed animal often does not receive veterinary care or other necessary aid. Such an animal may lie immobilized for hours or days, maybe under a hot sun or in adverse weather conditions, unable to get to food or water, eventually dying a miserable death or suffering even more when dragged or pushed with a tractor or forklift to slaughter.

Although some states have laws specifically banning stockyards from accepting downed animals, violations occur all too frequently. Stockyards with "no downer" policies are caught with neglected, downed animals on the premises. The livestock industry is doing a lousy job of policing itself. By removing the market, which is considered minimal, and therefore the profit motive for downed animals, you will also provide an incentive for the industry to provide better care of its animals, i.e., working towards preventing the conditions that create a downed animal and humanely euthanizing an animal that is down.

In short, the marketing and slaughter of downed animals causes inexcusable animal suffering and may very well create a considerable risk to human health.

Please let me know what position the FDA is taking on this matter.

Sincerely,

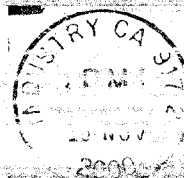


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